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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/748,432 | 12/26/2000 | Barbara A. Brown | APPIP011 | 4458 |
| 7590 | 07/02/2004 | | EXAMINER | |
| STEVE GUPTA VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE - APPAREON 1100 ISLAND DRIVE REDWOOD CITY, CA 94065 | | | FISHER, MICHAEL J | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3629 | |

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/748,432 | BROWN, BARBARA A. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Michael J Fisher | 3629 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 6,12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 6,12 and 18 recite the limitation "the rules" in line 1 of each. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Note: There are claimed 'first set of rules' and 'second set of rules'. For examination purposes, it will be assumed that the 'second set of rules' is intended to be referenced by this claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US PAT 5,970,472 to Allsop et al. (Allsop).

As to claims 1,5,7,11,13 and 17, Allsop discloses a method and system for handling a supply chain which includes transmitting data relating to a supply chain over

a network (claim 1 first paragraph), the data would be maintained according to a set of rules (those that are used by a computer to maintain records), receiving the data at a second location (claim 1, second paragraph), transforming the data using a second set of rules (claim 1, third paragraph). Allsop discloses using a computer (electronic commerce is accomplished by computers).

As to claims 3,9 and 15, as the orders are sent over the Internet, they would inherently be sent to different regions, as much as clarified in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 2,4,6,8,10,12,14,16 and 18 re rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allsop.

Allsop discloses a system as discussed above. Allsop does not, however, teach using the system for an apparel supply chain, sending the information to different countries and using laws.

As to claims 2,8 and 14, Allsop discloses using the system and method for a manufacturer (title) and as apparel is manufactured it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the system as disclosed by Allsop for an apparel supply chain as Allsop discloses the system as being good for manufacturers.

As to claim 4,10 and 16, as Allsop teaches using the Internet, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the system as disclosed by Allsop by allowing it to be used across international borders as the Internet, or, World Wide Web, is across the globe and this would allow the system to be used by anybody who wants to purchase the manufacturers products.

As to claims 6,12 and 18 as best understood, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the second set of rules to include laws as the supplier would not want to break the law in providing clothing.

Conclusion

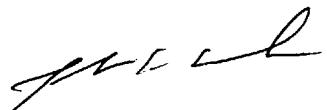
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US PAT 6697702 to Hahn-Carlson, Hahn-Carlson discloses a method and system for regulating a supply chain, US PAT 6,263,317 to Sharp et al., Sharp et al. disclose a supply chain with a conflict resolution (sets of rules) system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J Fisher whose telephone number is 703-306-5993. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-5:00pm alt Fri. off.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MF
6/27/04


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